

Brazos Valley Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists
Executive Board and Chapter Meetings
October 10, 2013

Board Meeting

Present: Olivia Ash, Jim Balthrop, Amanda Chau, Joyce Conner, Mike Conner, Betty Vermeire, Sue McBeth Welfel, Elrey Ash

President Olivia Ash called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM.

Vice-President:

Jim Balthrop reported that he, Past-President Steve Simcik, and Betty Vermeire comprise the nominating committee for 2014 officers. Three officers are in place and Jim is working of the fourth.

Treasurer:

Amanda Chau stated that the checkbook balance is \$4,329.43. Bills for trainees' binders and polo shirts are yet to be paid. The chapter has 49 paying members.

Outreach:

Dwight Bohlmeier announced that he needs wildlife photographs for the 2014 calendar by November 1. Iola has requested us to come teach Junior Naturalist classes. The Junior Naturalist program with the City of College Station has problems with low turn-out, and confusion and lack of communication by Dana Albrecht of CS Parks. Discussion ensued about the problems with this version of the program, including the high cost to enroll children (\$10 per child per session), how to get the word out, and more.

Joyce Conner mentioned that she and Cheryl Lewis discussed trading off First Friday in Downtown Bryan and doing outreach to schools, such as Kids Klub in the CSISD. Betty offered to send Joyce the name and contact information for the person in charge of Kids Klub, and also College Station's X-tra education program, for publicity purposes.

Basic Training:

Chair Bruce Neville was absent, but Betty Vermeire reported that there are 15 trainees and classes are proceeding well.

Membership:

Betty Vermeire stated that 22 members have submitted their September hours so far, totaling 337.5 Volunteer and 47 Advanced Training hours. The third Quarterly Report was submitted on time, 2770 Volunteer and 433 Advanced Training hours from this chapter, cumulative for 2013. So far this year, 3 members have certified, 13 have re-certified, 3 reached their 250-hours milestone, and 2 reached their 500-hours milestone.

Advanced Training:

Joyce Conner reported that there is much confusion over the online Child Protection Training, and that despite trying, she still cannot find out whether this is still available, whether members still have to do it, and whether those who haven't can still take it.

Joyce also reminded us that Advanced Training opportunities must be pre-approved before we take them. Approval is not retroactive.

Volunteer Service:

Mike Conner stated that volunteer service projects MUST be preapproved according to chapter guidelines. Mike also said that, based on his reading, volunteers are covered by the chapter's (state organization's ?) liability insurance while volunteering, and that members should sign a new liability waiver each year. He has created an appropriate form.

Historian:

No report.

Web Committee:

Amanda Chau stated that the chapter needs a web committee. Joyce Conner made a motion to have a standing Web Committee, Mike Conner seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously. Amanda will send out a notice to the chapter about adding the Web Committee, then notify the chapter a minimum of 10 days prior to the next meeting. (Though the addition apparently required 2/3 of the board to vote approval, and does not need chapter approval.)

Olivia and others suggested that our website include sections for recipes, how-to instructions, resources, and teacher resources.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:28 PM as board members rushed for the door.

Chapter Meeting

Present:

Members Jim Anding, Kitty Anding, Elrey Ash, Olivia Ash, Jim Balthrop, Laura Biddle, Joyce Conner, Mike Conner, Katharine Cupps, Jackie Girouard, Molly Harris, Melissa Kamerbeek, Madge Luquette, Charlene Lusk, Charlene Manning, Greg Pitts, Janet Quiram, Cynthia Stephens, Betty Vermeire, Sue McBeth Welfel, Sandy White.

Visitors: Lyndon Almand, Raymonda Almand, Colleen Bahkeller, Susan Balthrop, Carl Benson, Marcia Miculek, Myrna Wright.

Program

Pete Smith of USDA (?) presented "Famous Trees of Texas." The book on this subject was originally published in 1969 by TAMU Press. The third edition was published in 1984 and is now out of print.

<http://famoustreesoftexas.tamu.edu/>

Chapter Business Meeting

A motion to accept the previous month's minutes was made by Joyce Conner, seconded by Greg Pitts, and approved unanimously.

Reports by Vice-President Jim Balthrop, Outreach Chair Dwight Bohlmeier, and Advanced Training & Volunteer Service Tag-team Chairs Joyce and Mike Conner were similar to, or a digest of, what was discussed in the board meeting.

Jackie Girouard relayed that the Garden Club is trying to put native plants in Carter Park on Glenhaven; a workday on October 26 has been approved for volunteer hours.

In Amanda Chau's absence, the website report was relayed.

Host/Social Committee: November 12 will be the last training class for 2013; please attend and bring food. December 12 will be the Holiday Party and Chapter General Meeting; invitations and information have been sent.

Molly Harris announced that the Brazos County Master Gardeners will be holding a tour of four different types of local gardens on Saturday, October 12. Tickets are \$10.

Doorprize drawing items were provided by Joyce Conner, Charlene Manning, and the chapter and were won by Jim Balthrop, Jackie Girouard, and Charlene Lusk.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Vermeire
Acting Secretary